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## **EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT** OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503 January 2, 1986

Executive Registry 0042

M-86-11

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM:

Joseph R. Wright, Jrg

Deputy Director

SUBJECT:

Use of Private Collection Agencies

On October 1, 1985, the General Services Administration (GSA) awarded contracts to four collection agencies to make available private collection services to all departments and agencies. This procurement was initiated by GSA at the request of the Office of Management and Budget to enhance the Government's debt collection efforts as part of the President's "Reform 88" effort.

We are <u>disappointed</u> at the <u>lack of progress</u> many agencies are making to identify seriously delinquent debt and turn it over to

At a time when this Administration should be pursuing every opportunity to manage programs more efficiently, many agency representatives are indicating an unwillingness to use collection agencies to augment their collection efforts. We cannot understand this reluctance -- except that bureaucracies sometimes hate to turn anything loose -- even if it saves the taxpayer

As of June 30, 1985, non-tax delinquent debt owed to the Government was \$23.5 billion. than six months delinquent! Certainly there is plenty of Of that amount 76 percent is more collection work to be done, and much of that should be turned

Would you please make this a personal priority in your agency and make an assessment of your agency's progress in using collection agencies. We cannot, with a \$200 billion deficit, afford to drop the ball in this area. And we need to receive a schedule for placement of accounts including the number, amount, and category of debt by the end of January 1986 so we can tell if action has